
Plants and Animals

Colorado

Kids for City Kids Day Camp

Situation:

The original camp began three years ago and was called Kids for City Kids (KFCK). The idea for the camp was first found in a sheep magazine. An agent then adapted it for the county and the program she foresaw. The idea was to give urban youth a taste of the country life that so many never experience, and also to give youth at risk an opportunity to get out and find something that they loved to do but had never had a chance to do before. The first year, press releases and newspaper articles were run in many areas, but the participation was low with only six campers. It was after getting the involvement of the West Center, School District 11 that enrollment jumped to more than 45 participants. It continues to expand every year. Penrose Stadium donates its facilities, and the program adjusts its schedule depending on stadium availability. The stadium allows use of its barns and smaller arenas, and the state park area around the stadium is wonderful for walking with the animals.

Program Description:

About 20-30 children attended each of the five sessions of this year's camp. Participants, ages 9-14, are typically from an urban area, and they have had very little hands-on interaction with large domesticated animals. The animals available to the campers are goats and sheep. Llamas are available for use by returning campers. The camp is a 3-hour program, 4 days a week. The program is designed to allow children who have not had the experience of working with large animals the opportunity to experience the hard work as well as the rewards and enjoyment of "owning" an animal for the week at camp. The campers take on the full responsibility of the animals for the entire camp. This includes feeding, watering, bathing, and exercising their animals, and learning how to properly show their them. They learn basic health care and gain knowledge of the endoskeleton and exoskeleton. The goal for the participants is to have the campers leave with a well-rounded knowledge of their species, as well as understand the responsibilities and the triumphs of working with animals. While the goal of the program as a whole, in direct correlation with the community, is to expand their interest and knowledge of a variety of animals beyond the basic cats and dogs, it is also to continue their interest in 4-H.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

The camp has a variety of qualities, different from the typical day camp offered to children during the summer. It is very specialized, focusing only on the species available for the camper's use, and thus cuts out many of the other items a day camp is known for. It requires a staff of employees and volunteers who are very knowledgeable in the area or species they are teaching. Volunteers are mainly junior leaders in the local 4-H groups and are breeders and showmen in the correlating

4-H projects. It is a very intense, activity-filled 3 hours with little down time, which avoids possible disciplinary problems and boredom that may arise otherwise. A variety of hands-on activities, such as shearing, milking, and grooming, are demonstrated throughout the week. The campers are taught the best way to keep the animals healthy, along with the variety of uses of the animal. The camp allows children to feel as if they own the animal and that they are its sole caretakers, which creates a passion and love for what they are doing.

Word search puzzles are used as a teaching tool. The puzzles use the words from the lesson taught for that day, which enables the campers to remember the words in a fun way and not by taking notes. The word search is also a study guide for those who wish to study at home. This side activity gives the campers a chance to rest, and children are encouraged to work together as a team to successfully find all the words.

Each year the camp has grown in numbers. About 50% of campers return each year. Most days the campers leave very tired but exhilarated with stories of all the events from the day. There is a very noticeable improvement between the interaction of the campers and the animals over the week. The patience of working with ornery animals and understanding the responsibility to their animal increase over time. The campers display maturity and comfort working with the animals on the last day, that was lacking on the first.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

The camp sparked an interest in and a larger understanding of 4-H. It encouraged people to go to the county fair and watch 4-H members show their animals. Parents were able to see their children handling animals that they were used to seeing only in a petting zoo, and they witnessed their children's confident handling and working with the animals. Participants were given the chance to show their animals at the county fair in a show designated specially for the Kids for City Kids. Kids couldn't stop smiling with pride at the fair as they prepared to show their animals. The true spirit of sportsmanship and true competitiveness came through, showing the respect the campers had for themselves, their animals, and one another. The community was given the opportunity to see all the variety of uses of the animals and to understand the animals' personalities. The participants learned that the goats, sheep, and llamas are animals that are very versatile and practical to own. The camp staff received letters of thanks, saying things such as, "You have helped my child more than you and maybe even he will ever know, and you may help countless others. PLEASE continue with your program." One child drew a picture and wrote a thank-you letter for each of the main leaders, saying "This is a great camp and a great chance for city kids. I'll see you at the County Fair!" Countless verbal praises and the evaluation show almost 100% approval of the camp and that a large percentage of campers wish to return.

Resource Commitment:

The West Center Neighborhood Resources gave a stipend amount of \$620. There was also a \$25 registration fee for each camper, and this was dependent upon his or her ability to pay. Libby George, 4-H Urban Expansion Coordinator at Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, is the founder of KFCK. Libby is a part-time employee and spends 50% of her .5 FTE

appointment on coordinating the camp.

Collaborators:

Most of the staff members on a daily basis at the camp are 4-H junior leaders who volunteer their time to share their knowledge. The 4-H office also is a large supporter, along with local breeders, Penrose Equestrian Stadium, Union Printers Home, West Center Neighborhood Resources, and School District 11.

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Indiana

Teaching Youth Through 4-H Animal Science Workshops

Situation:

The Animal Sciences Workshop for Youth had its beginning in 1972, when two Purdue University faculty members were seeking a new forum to teach livestock management skills to 4-H youth. Their goal was to educate youth about animal production practices, while stimulating their minds to think about new and improved ways of raising animals. By bringing 4-H youth together with animal science professors at Purdue, the founders of the workshop felt they could teach and recruit students at the same time. An intensive 3-day training workshop resulted from the collaborative efforts of an animal scientist and a 4-H Youth Development specialist.

Through the years the workshop has had the following objectives:

- ! To develop and foster life skills through positive interaction with others.
- ! To teach scientific principles of animal science to young people.
- ! To increase the awareness of animal industry issues among youth.
- ! To inform participants about careers in animal agriculture and educational opportunities at Purdue University.
- ! To prepare delegates to share what they learn at the workshop with others in their communities.

Program Description:

In addition to specie workshops, a variety of educational means has been utilized to accomplish the workshop objectives. Purdue faculty members have incorporated sessions on the Internet, along with town hall meetings to help stimulate the thinking of workshop delegates. Prior to the workshop, the committee selected five current topics of special interest to the livestock industry. Delegates were assigned one of these topics at the opening session. They were then given several opportunities to work in teams to learn both the pros and cons of their issue. Part of their research was conducted in organized sessions on the Internet, where faculty members had book-

marked helpful sites. On the final morning of the workshop, all of the delegates gathered in the Purdue ballroom to have a town hall meeting and openly discuss their findings on the issues. Media specialists and outside authorities were brought in to serve as moderators and offer their critique of each group's performance.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

Since 1996, sixteen out-of-state scholarship winners from eight states have been chosen to attend the rabbit workshop, thanks to an endowment established in honor of the late T. E. "Doc" Reed, who was an instructor at the early rabbit workshops. In 1999, an "honor group" of rabbit delegates was invited to pay their own way to attend the rabbit workshop. As a result, five rabbit enthusiasts from California, Idaho, Ohio, and British Columbia joined the workshop. Three of these out-of-state delegates are planning to attend Purdue University as a result of participating in the Animal Sciences Workshop for Youth.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

From the first 3-day workshop in 1973, a significant educational program evolved that has impacted families in all 92 Indiana counties and more than 8,000 youth delegates from 11 states and British Columbia. A survey of the 225 delegates in attendance at the 2000 Animal Sciences Workshop for Youth revealed the following information:

- ! 90% of the delegates found the workshop to be a positive learning experience.
- ! 76% of those in attendance said they learned information at the workshop that would help them better manage their 4-H animal project(s).
- ! 85% of the delegates indicated their understanding of the technology used in animal sciences had increased as a result of attending the workshop.
- ! 78% of the youth said they were motivated to share the information they had learned at the workshop with others in their community.
- ! 85% of the delegates said the workshop had increased their desire to pursue a college degree.
- ! 88% of the youth said their impression of Purdue University had improved as a result of attending the workshop.
- ! 91% of the delegates indicated they would encourage others to attend the Animal Sciences Workshop for Youth.

Resource Commitment:

To pay for housing and meals, workshop delegates currently pay an \$85 registration fee. In addition, \$5-10,000 of support for the Animal Science Workshops is generated on an annual basis as a result of the generosity of animal-related state associations and various agricultural enterprises that realize the educational value of the workshops.

Collaborators:

Creighton Brothers – Warsaw, IN; Hubbard Milling Company – Mankato, MN; Indiana Aquaculture Assn. – Martinsville, IN; Indiana Beef Cattle Assn. – Indianapolis, IN; Indiana 4-H Foundation – Indianapolis, IN; Indiana Horse Council Foundation – Indianapolis, IN; Indiana

Meat Packers and Processors – Portland, IN; Indiana Pork Producers’ Assn. – Indianapolis, IN; Indiana Rabbit Breeders’ Assn. – Lafayette, IN; Indiana Sheep and Wool Market Council – West Lafayette, IN; Indiana State Dairy Assn. – West Lafayette, IN; Indiana State Poultry Assn. – West Lafayette, IN; Moorman Manufacturing Company – Bluffton, IN; Northstar Select Sires – Lansing, MI; Turkey Market Development Council – West Lafayette, IN; United Feeds, Inc. – Sheridan, IN.

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Maryland

Farmers and Children: Growing Our Future Together

Situation:

The rural landscape of St. Mary’s County has undergone tremendous changes in the past decade as the urban population of the county continues to change and expand. Members of the agricultural community and the St. Mary’s County Office of Maryland Cooperative **Extension** recognized the need to provide education to the urban public concerning agriculture and the many different ways it affects their lives on an everyday basis.

Program Description:

Three educational programs have been conducted in St. Mary’s County at the following locations: Carver, Bannekar, and Park Hall elementary schools. Educational programs offered information and instruction in general agriculture awareness in the following areas: livestock identification; animal husbandry; grain production; grain identification; products made from grain; and grain nutrition. Teaching was conducted using large farm machinery, livestock, and grain samples in aiding participating youth to enjoy a hands-on learning opportunity. The program goal was to educate urban youth about the significant role agriculture plays in their everyday lives. Program objectives included:

- ! Use hands-on and real life examples to strengthen developmental skills, life skills, creativity, and social learning skills.
- ! Provide opportunities for urban youth to participate in county 4-H programs.
- ! Provide opportunities for urban youth to learn about agriculture practices in their county.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

Three extension educators representing the program areas of 4-H youth development, agriculture and natural resources, and family and consumer sciences gave a combined total of .25% FTE to the programs. About 1,200 students participated in a series of three workshops centered on the agriculture awareness theme. The hands-on approach to learning incorporated by the educators

helped participants' interest levels and kept the youth interested in learning the subject matter. Teachers and administrators were very pleased with the demonstrations, teaching, and interest level of their students.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

About 1,200 youth participated in the "Farmers and Children: Growing Our Future Together" programs held in St. Mary's County. All participating youth were educated in grain science and livestock education and were introduced to the St. Mary's County 4-H youth development program. About 50% of program participants were minorities. As a result of the programs:

- ! The South Hampton 4-H club was organized the week following the program in the Carver Elementary School Community. Twenty-two youth who attended the Carver Elementary program and received information about 4-H at the program joined the club and participated in an 8-week summer 4-H program.
- ! The program at Bannekar Elementary opened the door for an After-School 4-H program to begin. A total of 26 youth attending the agriculture awareness program joined the Bannekar After-School 4-H Club, which continues to function during the school year.
- ! The program at Park Hall Elementary sparked an immediate interest in 4-H, and more than 30 youth have participated in special interest activities held throughout the year at the school and in the county.

Resource Commitment:

\$600 in program development funds; .25% total of three FTE's; 20 volunteers (adult and teen); 4-H animal projects; school administrators and teachers.

Collaborators:

St. Mary's County Public Schools (Bannekar, Carver, and Park Hall elementary schools); St. Mary's County Department of Community and Economic Development; Donny Tennison (farmer); St. Mary's Young Farmers; Maryland Cooperative Extension – St. Mary's County Office.

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Other Base Program Areas This Program Applies to:

Agriculture; Nutrition, Diet, & Health

Improving Youth Livestock Programs Through Ultrasound Technology

Situation:

The livestock project is considered to be the “bread and butter” of the FFA and 4-H programs in many states. While traditional livestock-centered FFA & 4-H programs have been instrumental in bringing these two youth development programs to where they are today, will they take agricultural education into the future?

Youth livestock shows can be an effective teaching tool for youth development, as well as for agriculturists and consumers of the future. Educational methods employed by FFA and 4-H can either be responsive to future needs and technological advancements or risk becoming obsolete.

Program Description:

Ultrasound data has been collected from Idaho county extension programs using ultrasound technology in the evaluation of show animals at county fairs for the past 5 years. Two groups of Idaho county extension educators have been trained and certified to collect ultrasound data, and they work in teams to collect data and implement educational programs regarding the use of ultrasound technology in livestock evaluation. These teams of extension educators use ultrasound data to educate youth livestock producers about USDA market specifications and demonstrate how this technology can evaluate the extent to which their show animals meet those specifications. Animals are scanned at the fair, and youth receive information on their animal at the time of scanning. The information is available for the judges to use at their discretion. Youth are rewarded for raising animals that fit industry standards.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

Each year youth and leaders look forward to this data collection to determine how well their animals compare to industry standards. In many cases, the ultrasound scan is the only available carcass measurement available to small county fairs with no access to slaughter facilities in their immediate area.

Using ultrasound as an educational tool, the youth involved can best explain their approval. As one 4-H member puts it, “Now I can look at my pig and tell if he is too fat; before we used ultrasound, my pig was just a pig.” Another youth adds, “When my animal meets the gold standards and I get a certificate, I know I did my best.”

Program Impact:

A 2000 survey of county Extension programs in Idaho revealed that 62% of county 4-H programs use real-time ultrasound technology in evaluation or educational processes at county fairs. In addition, ultrasound data have been collected on the market steers at the Eastern Idaho State Fair

from 1995 through 1999. The percentage of steers grading choice, as identified with ultrasound, in 1995 was 23 percent, with an average yield grade of 2.8. Percentage of steers grading choice in 1999 was 43 percent, with an average yield grade of 2.1.

Buyers of project animals at youth livestock shows are beginning to use ultrasound data to help them identify animals with more muscle and less fat. Using the data from the animals has not increased the value of the animal. It has, however, helped these consumers determine which animals to purchase and put into their freezers. The number of individuals buying these animals for personal consumption has increased 22 percent since the introduction of ultrasound.

Resource Commitment:

The dedicated county extension educators in Idaho who expend their time and effort to collect the ultrasound data are the most critical resource that makes the use of ultrasound with youth livestock projects possible. The financial cost is the next hurdle that has to be overcome. The initial investment of the ultrasound equipment is significant and can be compensated by grants from agricultural industry organizations and educational institutions, to support innovative educational programs.

The cost to collect the ultrasound data is about \$3 per head. This cost is either passed on to the exhibitor or is paid by the local fair board. The general thought is that the information passed back to the exhibitor and the breeder is worth the cost of the scan.

The use of ultrasound technology can enhance the educational opportunities available to FFA and 4-H youth who exhibit livestock, while at the same time providing a sound framework for achieving youth development goals. For youth development programs in livestock to survive and thrive into the future, they must be based on a sound educational foundation. The use of ultrasound technology can help provide that strong foundation. It is recommended that the use of ultrasound technology be expanded to youth livestock programs in other states.

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Other Base Program Areas This Program Applies to:

Consumer & Family Science, Science & Technology

4-H Livestock and Equine Symposium

Situation:

Even with the increasing urban sprawl that is affecting New Jersey, the animal science projects remain the largest 4-H program area in the state. As New Jersey is faced with a continual loss of farms, our number of knowledgeable producers and resources have also declined, limiting our educational experiences. An ad-hoc committee of equine and livestock volunteers was formed to assess the changing needs of the 4-H animal science programs. Several priorities were determined, centering around the development of a non-competitive, educational seminar for volunteer leaders and youth members.

Program Description:

The 4-H livestock and equine volunteer advisory group, in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture, designed a one-day livestock and equine symposium. The purpose of the symposium was to provide 4-H members, leaders, families, and others an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills related to their livestock and equine projects. The goals were for the participants to:

- Increase their understanding of animal ethics and positive attitudes in youth programs.
- Increase their knowledge of basic animal care and management.
- Learn to observe animals to understand when something is wrong with the animal.
- Increase their awareness of current issues affecting those raising livestock.
- Increase their awareness of available resources to support youth livestock programs.
- Increase their understanding of the NJ Dept. of Agriculture Junior Breeder Fund program.

Attendees participated in general sessions on animal ethics and positive attitudes in youth programs. In addition, the participants were able to choose from a variety of workshops that provided species specific information. Two workshops were designed expressly for adults.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

The interest in the symposium went far beyond the committee's expectations, with 524 individuals registering. (The expected number of participants was 200 people.) Due to capacity restraints, only 320 registrations could be accepted. The overall rating for the symposium indicated the participants were satisfied with the event. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being "Great," 85% of the evaluations returned rated the symposium with a score of 7 or higher, and 100 % indicated that they would attend the symposium in 2002. The State Department of Agriculture was also very satisfied with the event and agreed to fund the event again next year.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

Based on the evaluation from the symposium, (evaluations were returned from 214 participants).

- 66% of the participants indicated they increased their knowledge of animal ethics.

- 42% of the participants indicated they increased their understanding of the positive role that participating in a youth program can have on youth.
- 87% of the participants indicated they learned something new during the symposium that would help them improve how they care for their animals.
- 78% indicated they learned something during the symposium that would help them know when something is wrong with their animal's health.
- 78% of the participants indicated that they had increased their awareness of current issues affecting the agricultural community in respect to raising animals.
- 60% of the participants indicated they learned a lot about the Junior Breeder Loan program.
- 17% of the participants indicated they definitely would apply for a Junior Breeder Loan, while another 55% indicated they might apply for a loan.

Resource Commitment:

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Junior Breeder Fund & Division of Agricultural Markets provided \$7,500 in funding for the implementation of the program, which covered speakers, animal costs and handouts. The NJDA also provided in-kind secretarial help for mailings, publicity and registration. Agway sponsored a speaker for the cost of \$250. The NJDA's Equine Advisory Board provided \$500 in printing and mailing costs. The facilities were provided by Cook College – Rutgers Cooperative Extension as an in-kind service. The Cook College Farm provided some of the livestock used for the hands-on workshops, and farm staff to help handle and coordinate the animals.

Collaborators:

The program was coordinated and implemented in cooperation with the NJ Department of Agriculture, Junior Breeder Fund Committee, Division of Agricultural Markets, NJ Equine Advisory Board, NJ FFA, NJ Equine Advisory Board Youth Committee, Agway, Cook College Farm and Farm Staff, Cook College Animal Science Department, 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee volunteers, Agway, and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Department of 4-H Youth Development and Department of Extension Specialists.

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Other base program areas this program applies to:

Agriculture, Leadership & Volunteer Development

Farm Fun Day Camp 2001

Situation:

Farm Fun Day Camp 2001 was held daily July 9-13 from 9am- 4pm at the Washington County Agricultural Education Center.

Program Description:

Farm Fun Day Camp is designed to offer youth ages 7-11, an opportunity to participate in hands-on-learning activities about agriculture. Activities at Farm Fun Day Camp focus on teaching youth about animal science, natural resources, food and nutrition, horticulture and agronomy. Farm Fun Day Camp is accredited by the American Camping Association. The first Farm Fun Day Camp was held in 1998 with 34 participants. In 2001, 74 campers and 27 teen leaders participated in the program. Approximately 95% of the campers and 50% of the teen leaders enrolled in Farm Fun Day Camp 2001 were from urban areas in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia or Delaware. This year's program featured field trips to a dairy farm, fish hatchery, wildlife management area, vegetable garden, soil pit and orchard.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

One full time employee committed 15% of her time to coordinating Farm Fun Day Camp 2001. Three full time employees each committed 7% of their time to developing curriculum and facilitating activities for this year's program. The educational activities offered at Farm Fun Day Camp are uniquely appropriate for the program's target audience. Over the course of the weeklong program, every facet of agriculture was creatively introduced to the participants through hands-on-learning activities or field trips. All stakeholders, including those who committed resources and those who served as collaborators, were very satisfied with the success of the program.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

Based on program evaluations, the program objectives were clearly met and exceeded. The following comments were taken directly from program evaluation forms completed by participants:

- "I really enjoyed the whole week and didn't want it to end."
- "I had a great time and this is my favorite camp."
- "I learned how to make a rocket, make new friends and work in a group."
- "I learned how to make a flower arrangement, plant presser and bread."
- "I liked sharing my projects with my family and I especially loved the bread!"
- "(The hands-on activities) were fun and you could show people what you did at camp instead of just telling them."

Resource Commitment:

Cindy's Sweets, Williamsport MD 21795; Mount Hope Farm, Hagerstown MD; Ellsworth Electric, Inc., Hagerstown MD; Purina Mills, Inc., Hagerstown MD 21740; Hagerstown Lumber Company; LeRoy E. Myers, Inc., Hagerstown MD; Washington County Commissioners; Mid Atlantic Farm Credit, Hagerstown MD; Willard Agri-Service, Marion PA;

Collaborators:

Frank Allnutt, Agriculture Experiment Station, Western MD Research & Education Center
Brenda Leggett, Leggett's Dairy Farm, Boonsboro MD
Betsy Herbst, Misty Meadow Farm, Smithsburg MD
Michelle Trumpower, Loan Representative, Mid Atlantic Farm Credit
Jaime Dick, Director, Washington County Recreation Department
Lynn Little, Extension Educator
Jeff Semler, Extension Educator
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Other base program areas this program applies to:

Natural Resources Environmental Management, Nutrition, Diet and Health, Community Resource & Economic Development, Agriculture, Leadership & Volunteer Development

Maryland

Family Day on the Farm

Situation:

Cecil County MD is an agricultural county in the northeast corner of the state. There is increasing development in the county because of its proximity to Newark and Wilmington DE, Baltimore MD and Philadelphia PA. Family Day on the Farm is designed to showcase county agriculture and related programs to families in the area. The site changes each year to emphasize a different aspect of our agricultural production. Environmental stewardship practices on each farm are emphasized - an important issue in this county that sits at the top of the Chesapeake Bay.

Program Description:

Family Day on the Farm has been an annual event for the past 5 years. Families spend an educational and entertaining afternoon on a working Cecil County farm to learn about agriculture by interacting with their farm neighbors and agricultural agencies, organizations, and businesses. Improved relationships are fostered and participants increase the understanding of where the food

comes from. Our guests learn about the many activities of 4-H, Maryland Cooperative Extension and other agricultural agencies, organizations, and businesses.

4-H members and volunteers have been actively involved in this program from the start. Youth and volunteers do demonstrations, set up 4-H booths and project displays, conduct educational activities like farm-related crafts and ice cream making and serve as ambassadors for the county and 4-H.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

The increasing success of this program is reflected in the increased number of families who attend each year. Visitors are fascinated with the "up-close" experience with agriculture. Many don't understand all that is involved in agricultural production and how important the environment is to the agricultural community. Planning meetings of staff and community members representing agricultural groups and other organizations involves others and makes this a truly cooperative county event.

Accomplishments and Impacts:

Family Day on the Farm 2000 featured the largest grain farm in our county, owned by William and Julian Spry. Twenty-one agriculture related agencies and organizations exhibited at the event. In addition to exhibits from five 4-H clubs, some of the exhibitors included Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Conservation District, Cecil County Association for Family and Community Education, Young Farmers, Farm Bureau, Emergency Management Agency, Sheriff's Department, Ag Industrial Equipment Company, Cecil County Fair Board.

County 4-H club members, volunteers and others demonstrated rabbit handling, bee keeping techniques and dog handling, as well as being in charge of several farm oriented crafts. Youth also bring 4-H animal projects for display. For the past five years, local milk cooperatives have donated milk and local orchards have donated apples that were given away. The 4-H'ers help visitors with the ever-popular plastic bag ice cream making that demonstrates that ice cream is just a short step away from farm fresh milk. At the 2000 Family Day on the Farm there was a proclamation ceremony by the county commissioners recognizing National 4-H Week.

Continuously running hay wagon tours gave participants an understanding of how soybeans and grains are utilized, how farmers protect the environment and how grain and other commodity prices are determined. The wagon tours specifically addressed situations which sometimes cause conflicts between farm and non-farm communities. The commitment of farmers to be stewards of the earth and the cost of food production (and how little of that the farmer receives) were topics the farm visitors appreciated knowing about. The children were especially amazed by the many uses of soybeans - especially the crayons!

In 2001 we will conduct our 4-H Project Day activities at Family Day on the Farm. Members will demonstrate a variety of 4-H projects so that members and non-members alike will see the many projects and activities that one can do in 4-H.

Resource Commitments:

Various commodity groups make donations, such as milk and apples. Grants have been received for such expenses as insurance, advertising, rest room facilities and various supplies. In 2000 the Grain Producers awarded us a grant of \$2,200. Typical cost of the event is \$2,500.

Collaborators in 2000:

Spry family, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cecil Soil Conservation District, Cecil County Association for Family and Community Education, Cecil County Young Farmers, Farm Bureau, Cecil County Emergency Management Agency, Cecil County Sheriff's Department, Ag Industrial Equipment Company, Cecil County Fair Board.

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Other Base Program Areas This Program Applies to:

Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Management

Vermont

4-H/Youth Gardening Program

Situation:

Many Vermonters are concerned about the quality of life for Vermont's families and communities, including health and nutrition. They are also concerned about the condition of Vermont's working landscape and its watersheds. Rural Washington county is host to several challenging issues effecting youth: isolation, obesity, poverty, family dissolution, environmental contaminants, and loss of connection with agriculture. Education that is fun and enjoyable for kids while giving them a sense of accomplishment has been shown to counteract some of these risks. Education that builds awareness of multiple issues that communities can address to enhance quality of life is even more effective. Gardening offers an opportunity for multi-faceted education. It is an enjoyable activity that links adults and children with youth development, family, community, agricultural, environmental, nutrition and food security education.

Program Description:

The 4-H/youth gardening program in Washington County, Vermont, involves community volunteers in teaching young people the life long skill of gardening. The program stems from a 25 year partnership with the Central Vermont, Valley and Waterbury Rotary Clubs. A program committee of Rotary members, UVM Extension Master Gardeners, parents, youth, teachers, and Extension faculty and staff planned the program. The special interest program is free to all county

youth, ages 6 - 18. Special outreach efforts were made to reach youth from families on a low income. Among the program's benefits: 1) youth learn where their food comes from 2) youth eat more nutritious foods 3) youth develop life skills 4) families have an activity to share 5) adults volunteer and connect with youth around a common interest 6) adults and youth increase awareness of natural resources involved in gardening 7) adults and youth increase awareness of hunger related issues 8) adults and youth have an opportunity to serve the community and 9) the non-farming community understands the role of agriculture in their lives.

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

0.25 FTE's were committed to the project this year. Over 50 community members volunteered as workshop leaders, garden visitors, and mentors. 100 youth participated in workshops with hands-on topics like composting, planning and planting; nutrition, and exhibiting. At the end of season recognition dinner, youth will auction off some of their vegetables to raise money for next year's program. During the summer, volunteers visit youth gardens to offer helpful feedback. Youth are invited to exhibit their produce at Fairs and Field Days, and to participate in a garden mentoring opportunity. Participants receive two newsletters. Youth participate at four levels of experience: cloverbud, beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Advanced gardeners learn micro-business skills. All gardeners are encouraged to donate produce to their local food shelves and participate in the National Garden Writer's "Plant a Row for the Hungry" Program. Evaluations targeting youth participants, parents, and volunteer presenters indicated that the program was enjoyable as well as educational for everyone. Youth evaluations showed an increase in skills in gardening and beyond, for instance, business management and getting along with others. 90% of respondents indicated that they planned to "plant a row for the hungry."

Accomplishments and Impacts:

A survey of parents of returning participants indicated that important changes were observed over time. Nearly 90% of respondents noted behavior changes in the areas of life skill development, nutrition, environment, and agriculture. General comments included that children are more apt to eat vegetables as a result of growing them; they were more aware of the environment and agriculture, for example, one family started composting and another was more aware of recycling. One parent indicated that her children "connect science and learning with gardening and fun. Parents cite several life skills gained by their children as a result of participating in the program, including responsibility, self-discipline, social skills, self esteem, communication, decision making, planning and organizing, goal setting, healthy lifestyle choices, community service and keeping records. Other comments from parents indicate that participation in the program brings diverse people together and gives adults and children a sense of community.

Resource Commitment:

\$4000 USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Education Grant, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA..
\$1000 Vermont 4-H Foundation. \$600 Rotary donations. \$7200 in donations of seeds, plants, soil, and supplies from 15 businesses, 10 individuals, and two agencies.

Collaborators:

Central Vermont, Valley & Waterbury Rotary Clubs, ULM Extension Master Gardener Program, and University of Vermont Extension. Staff: part time coordinator, Michelle Manages.

Contact Person:

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Other base program areas this program applies to:

Natural Resources Environmental Management, Nutrition, Diet and Health, Community Resource & Economic Development Agriculture, Leadership & Volunteer Development, Family Development & Resource Management
